



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

GNQP Newsletter

A weekly overview of the most relevant developments related to
Question of Palestine

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A weekly newsletter on the latest news, developments, relevant publications and upcoming events on the Question of Palestine (QoP). This newsletter aims to help the members of the Global Network on the Question of Palestine (GNQP) to stay informed of legal, academic, political, and humanitarian developments, and be ready for action when needed.

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News in Palestine

Betty McCollum introduces historic bill seeking to end US complicity for Israeli human rights abuse, [Mondoweiss](#), Apr 15, 2021

Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN) introduced a comprehensive legislative initiative yet to promote Palestinian rights, H.R.2590, the Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act.

Pentagon Chief Austin Reaffirms US Alliance with Israel, [Voice of America](#), Apr 11, 2021

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin met with Israeli counterpart Benny Gantz on Sunday during a two-day trip to the Middle Eastern country. “We addressed a broad range of defense issues, to include Israel's long-term planning for defense acquisitions, and regional security challenges, and U.S. support for efforts to normalize relations between Israel and Arab and Muslim majority nations,” Austin told reporters.

NGO says 4,500 Palestinians in Israeli prisons, [Arab News](#), Apr 17, 2021

There are 4,500 Palestinians in Israeli prisons, including an 82-year-old man who has been behind bars since 2001, according to the Palestinian Prisoners’ Club NGO.

Palestine election: Israel's wave of arrests sweeps up Palestinians before polls, [Middle East Eye](#), Apr 12, 2021

Israeli forces arrested 24 Palestinians on Monday morning ahead of May's Palestinian legislative election, which Israel fears the Hamas movement will win with a landslide majority.

This latest round of arrests targeted several towns in the West Bank, according to a statement by the Palestinian prisoners' rights group Asra Media Office, and included a former female political prisoner and Hamas members in the West Bank.

Marwan Barghouti to run in PA presidential election, [J Post](#), Apr 15, 2021

Jailed Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti will run in the Palestinian Authority presidential election slated for July 31, Nasser al-Kidwa, a former PA foreign minister, declared on Wednesday.

Israel’s Gantz battles to preserve ties with Jordan, [Al-Monitor](#), Apr 12, 2021

Defense Minister Benny Gantz labors to repair damages caused by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Israel-Jordan relations. Speaking with reporters, Gantz said, “Jordan is a peaceful neighbor with extraordinary strategic importance. We will do what is necessary to maintain that relationship, which has lasted some 30 years.”

Israel agrees to increase water supply to Jordan after pressure from Biden, Middle East Eye, Apr 13, 2021

Israel has agreed to increase water supply to Jordan following weeks of delays and US pressure, local media reported. Under the agreement, Israel pumps water out of the Jordan river and transfers it back to Jordan during dry spells, as it remains one of the world's most water-scarce states.

Will waqf expansion strengthen Jordan’s control of Jerusalem holy sites?, Al-Monitor, Apr 13, 2021

After years of the Jerusalem Waqf Council being dormant with very few changes occurring, a more vibrant council is emerging with the Jordanian government taking a more active role in making changes to ensure the council is more reflective of Palestinians in Jerusalem.

UN experts warn of rising levels of Israeli settler violence in a climate of impunity, OHCHR, Apr 14, 2021

Un 2020, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) documented 771 incidents of settler violence causing injury to 133 Palestinians and damaging 9,646 trees and 184 vehicles mostly in the areas of Hebron, Jerusalem, Nablus and Ramallah,” the experts said. “Already, during the first three months of 2021, more than 210 settler violent incidents were recorded, with one Palestinian fatality”

Jewish National Fund approves land grab plan in West Bank to expand settlements, Middle East Eye, Apr 13, 2021

The Jewish National Fund has approved a controversial plan that will allow it to buy Palestinian lands in the West Bank for the expansion of illegal settlements, one step away from making official a practice that has been carried out under the table for decades

Israel celebrates its Independence Day more fractured than ever, Middle East Eye, Apr 15, 2021

Israelis used to be divided along secular, ultra-Orthodox, national religious and Arab lines. Now even those four groups are riven within

Palestinians in Israel mark 73 years since Nakba, affirming right of return, [*Middle East Eye*](#), Apr 15, 2021

The Association for the Defence of the Rights of the Displaced (ADRID), the organiser of the annual March of Return, which first started 24 years ago, called people on Thursday to participate in online demonstrations and activities due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

International Recognition Of Palestine Is Symbolic But Critical, [*Eurasia Review*](#), Apr 13, 2021

The Australian Labor Party's (ALP) recognition of Palestine as a state on March 30 was a welcome move, though it comes with many caveats. Pro-Palestinian activists are justified in questioning the sincerity of the party's stance and whether it is genuinely prepared to adopt this position should it be in power following the 2022 elections.

Palestinian boy, 14, loses eye after being hit by Israeli rubber bullet, [*Middle East Eye*](#), Apr 13, 2021

"We could see the soldiers not too far away from us, and there were some other kids around also watching the clashes," Izz al-Din told Middle East Eye from his bed. From what he could make out, the soldiers were firing tear gas and sound bombs.

"We were just watching the clashes and all of a sudden I felt something hit me in the face," he said. He fell to the ground as the pain bit into the area around his right eye.

The ICC's Israel Investigation Could Backfire, [*Foreign Policy*](#), Apr 12, 2021

At best, the threat of international prosecution of Israeli leaders could revive a sense of urgency in Israel for advancing a negotiated solution with the Palestinians. But achieving one in practice is nearly impossible at present. During Israel's election campaign, the ICC issue was merely co-opted by political leaders to fling accusations at one another. The investigation has prompted no serious self-criticism in Israel, let alone advanced accountability or future reconciliation.

Israel denies professor prestigious prize for allegedly supporting BDS, [*Middle East Eye*](#), Apr 13, 2021

Israeli Education Minister Yoav Gallant has denied an Israeli professor of computer science the prestigious Israel Prize over his alleged support of the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Oded Goldreich was set to receive the 2021 Israeli Prize in mathematics and computer science on Monday before it was withheld from him.

Challenges Accessing Water in the West Bank, [Relief Web](#), Apr 14, 2021

It is estimated that 659,237 inhabitants in the West Bank and 959,652 inhabitants in the Gaza Strip have limited access to water.

Palestine slams UK opposition to ICC war crimes probe, [Arab News](#), Apr 15, 2021

In a letter to the lobby group Conservative Friends of Israel, Johnson said his government had “respect (for) the independence” of the ICC but opposed the inquiry.

In a statement posted on its website, the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Britain said Johnson’s letter was “deeply regrettable” and “marks a low point in UK-Palestine relations and undermines the UK’s credibility on the international stage.”

Palestinian refugees

In Trump-era rollback, US recognises all UN registered Palestinian refugees, [The National News](#), Apr 12, 2021

The US recognizes all Palestinian refugees registered as such by the UN, the U.S Ambassador to Jordan Henry Wooster said. “Irrespective of any administration, US policy can only count those refugees who are registered with the United Nations,” Mr Wooster told reporters during a visit to a US-funded clinic in the Baqaa refugee camp on the southern outskirts of Amman.

UNRWA Once Again in International Spotlight, [Jadaliyya](#), Apr 16, 2021

The United States recently announced plans to restore US financial support to UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) with a USD 150 million contribution as part of its overall aid package to the Palestinians. The problems UNRWA faces, however, are not only financial. The upcoming UNRWA Conference offers an opportunity to UNRWA that should not be missed.

An Appeal for the Protection of Palestinian Refugee Camps, [ARDD](#), Apr 04, 2021 [[VIDEO](#)]

It is importance for Palestinian camps be protected, so that they may continue to serve as centers of life for many Palestinians, especially children, and youth, till the day a just and durable solution for the future of the refugees is found. It should be clear that protecting the camps, safeguarding and upgrading the living conditions, and defending the rights of refugees in the various host countries does not mean renouncing the right of return or abandoning the Palestinian cause.

'It is a Nakba': Campaign to save Sheikh Jarrah builds momentum as forced displacement looms, [Mondoweiss](#), Apr 16, 2021

In a matter of just two weeks, six Palestinian families, numbering 27 people, from the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah will be thrown out of their homes and into the street, and replaced with Israeli settlers. Now residents are doubling down on the campaign to #SaveSheikhJarrah.

Evaluation of the Agency's Protection Audit Mechanism, [UNRWA](#), Apr 16, 2021

The evaluation was conducted by the Department of Internal Oversight Services Evaluation Division in collaboration with an external consultant. The evaluation was guided by the standard and internationally recognized criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability to assess the UNRWA Protection Audit mechanism.

Gaza: Palestinians who fled Syria ask UN for rent help, [Syrian Observatory for Human Rights](#), Apr 13, 2021

"How a UN agency is unable to pay aid to 168 displaced families from Syria [90% are Palestinian refugees] who are experiencing doubled suffering, while it is able to provide assistance to millions of refugees in Gaza and in Arab countries," said Ziyad Musabbeh, the head of the community of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Gaza.

Challenging traditional 'masculinity' in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, [Open Democracy](#), Apr 15, 2021

This performance of gender is what Gustavo Barbosa, associate researcher at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Universidade Federal Fluminense in Rio de Janeiro, set to explore in his book, 'The Best of Hard Times: Palestinian Refugee Masculinities in Lebanon'. Barbosa shows not only the transformation in time of masculinity, but also suggests the need to transform and undo the scholarly concept of gender.

Palestinian families face another difficult Ramadan as aid funding dips, [Arab News](#), Apr 15, 2021

For needy families, the month of Ramadan is an opportunity to receive financial donations and food aid, which help them endure the hardships of life in Gaza, which has been deteriorating over the past 15 years as a result of the Israeli blockade and internal division.

Palestinian Receive Aid Distributed by UNRWA in Gaza, [UPI](#), Apr 17, 2021

Palestinians receive aid distributed by United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) at the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday

Publications

Ardi Imseis, The United Nations Plan of Partition For Palestine Revisited: On the Origins Of Palestine's International Legal Subalternity, [Stanford Law Journal](#), Winter 2021

The author argues that driven by European (colonialist) political goals, resolution 181 allowed support for the European Zionist program in Palestine through a UN crafted two-state framework. This has become the legal cornerstone of the UN's position on Palestine against the wishes of Palestine's indigenous Arab majority. 'Resolution 181(II)' - the author says - 'can be understood as the opening act of Palestine's disenfranchisement and contingency in the U.N., a subaltern position which continues to this very day'.

Youth Wellbeing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: An in-depth, multi-level and disciplinary study into wellbeing and gender equality among Palestinian youth, [Oxfam](#), Apr 15, 2021

This study presents an important opportunity to fill this knowledge gap by offering a critical understanding of the current state of youth in the OPT through a comprehensive interdisciplinary and multi-level approach. By combining the economic, political, and socio-cultural spheres, and conducting analysis at the macro (policy/institutional), meso (organizational), and micro (individual) levels, it looks to explore the root causes and complex dynamics of the processes involved in youth exclusion from (and inclusion in) the labour market and civic/political life, while investigating the potentially transformative effect of youth agency.

A Legal Reading of the Israeli-American Policies towards Palestinian Authority Tax Revenues, [Law4Palestine](#), Apr 11, 2021

The PA has multiple options to internationalize the issue of the Clearing Funds. Resorting to the International Court of Justice is one of these options.

The PA has the option to disengage itself from the legal obligations of both the Oslo Accords and the Paris Economic Agreement, a move that the PA can justify with Israel's failure to abide by the terms of those two bilateral agreements.

Events

Noam Chomsky in conversation with Noura Erakat, [Middle East Children's Alliance – MECA](#), Apr 24, 2021 3 PM EDT

Noam Chomsky: Professor, social critic, political activist, historian, and ground-breaking linguist, as well as author of over 150 books. One of the most influential public intellectuals in the world, he's an unapologetic critic of US foreign policy, global capitalism and corporate mass media. Currently he teaches linguistics at the University of Arizona, and he is Professor Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Book Launch: Enforcing Silence. Academic Freedom, [Palestine and the Criticism of Israel, MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict, Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin, and Academics for Palestine](#), Apr 22, 2021 2 PM EDT

This collection uses the controversies surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to explore the limits placed on academic freedom. It looks at how the neoliberalisation of higher education has shaped the current climate, and how academics and their universities should respond to these new threats.

Panelists:

- Yara Harawi: University of Exeter, Senior Analyst at Al-Shabaka
- Arianne Shahvisi: Brighton and Sussex Medical School
- John Reynolds: Maynooth University

A New U.S. Approach to Israel-Palestine, [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#), Apr 20, 2021

After three decades of an Israel-Palestine peace process that has entrenched occupation and seen settler numbers in the West Bank quadruple, it is time for a U.S. policy reset on conflict resolution. How can this U.S. administration help shift political calculations of Palestinians and Israelis, alter the negative trajectory of realities on the ground, and rebuild prospects for a durable peace?

Panelists:

- Salih Booker: President and CEO of the Center for International Policy.
- Khaled Elgindy: Senior fellow at the Middle East Institute

- Lara Friedman: President of the Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMPEP).
- Muasher: Vice President for studies at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Zaha Hassan is a human rights lawyer and visiting fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Daniel Levy: President of the U.S. / Middle East Project.

The Mechanics of Occupation - Children in Military Detention”, *Canadian Voices for Palestinian Rights*, Apr 17, 2021

Each year, Israeli authorities detain hundreds of Palestinian children and prosecute them in military courts.

Why are these children arrested? Where are they arrested from? Are their legal rights respected?

Join us

for a talk by Gerard Horton and Salwa Duaibis, co-founders of Military Court Watch, an organisation

that monitors the treatment of children in Israeli military detention.

Panelists:

- Salwa Duaibis: Palestinian citizen of Israel based in Jerusalem. In 2013 she co-founded ‘Military Court Watch’, an organization that monitors the treatment of children in Israeli military detention.
- Gerard Horton: Lawyer and co-founder of Military Court Watch.

Water, Health and Human Rights: Marking World Water Day, from the U.S. to Palestine, *Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine*

- Keynote: Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)
- Monica Lewis-Patrick, We the People of Detroit
- Mahtowin Munro, United American Indians of New England
- Wayland 'X' Coleman, Deeper than Water
- Jihad Abusalim, American Friends Service Committee
- Nidal al-Azraq, 1for3.org

[Webinar] “Medical Apartheid”: COVID Vaccinations Under Occupation, *Foundation for Middle East Peace* Apr 7, 2021



Israel's program of vaccinating its citizens against COVID-19 has been touted worldwide as a great success. Yet, Israel has rejected any responsibility for providing or even facilitating vaccines for the millions of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, despite the fact that from 1967 through the present-day Israel exercises overarching control over these areas (and despite the fact that Israel has provided vaccines for its own citizens living in illegal West Bank settlements).

Panelists:

- Yara M. Asi, PhD, Policy Member of Al Shabaka, Non-resident Fellow at the Arab Center Washington DC.
- Ghada Majadli, Director of the Occupied Palestinian Territory Department at Physicians for Human Rights-Israel.
- Kristin McCarthy, Director of Grants & Operations at the Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP), author of FMEP's weekly Settlement Report.